



Reverse Bay Park – 45 Degree Method

Introduction – Why Use the 45° Method?

The 45-degree method is smoother and more controlled than the traditional 90-degree reverse bay park. It allows you to create space before reversing, provides clearer reference points in your mirrors, and increases the likelihood of parking accurately on the first attempt. It also makes adjustments easier and improves overall safety and visibility.

Stage 1 – Awareness in the Car Park

Remain aware of your surroundings, particularly vehicles behind you. Ensure it is safe to slow down before selecting a space. Once you have chosen a bay, indicate left to show your intention.

Stage 2 – Correct Positioning

Park in a space on the left-hand side, the same side you would normally drive on a road. If there are road markings, treat the car park like any other road and maintain correct positioning.

Stage 3 – Key Reference Point

Line up your car so that the base of the passenger-side wing mirror appears to sit on top of a white bay line. This is your setup position.

Stage 4 – Observations Before Moving Out

Complete full observations before moving to the right. Check mirrors, blind spots, and especially over your right shoulder.

Stage 5 – Create the 45° Angle

When safe, steer quickly to the right (clockwise) while moving slowly. Check your left wing mirror for the line that will form the left side of the bay. It should appear to travel toward the back left corner of your car. Stop when the car reaches approximately 45 degrees.

Stage 6 – Prepare to Reverse

Complete observations again, particularly behind. Select reverse gear. When safe, move slowly backwards while steering quickly to the left (anti-clockwise).

Stage 7 – Guiding into the Bay

Maintain effective observations throughout. Use your mirrors to guide the car into the bay. Remember: If you want the back of the car to go left, steer left. If you want it to go right, steer right.





Stage 8 – Mirror Transition

As you reverse, the left line may disappear from view. The right-hand bay line should then appear in your right wing mirror. Use this to maintain alignment.

Stage 9 – Final Position

Aim to finish parallel within the space and approximately equal distance from both white lines.

Stage 10 – Adjust if Necessary

If required, select first gear and move forward to adjust when safe. Once correctly positioned: select neutral, apply the handbrake, cancel your signal, and switch off the engine if leaving the vehicle.

Stage 11 – Reversing Cameras

Reversing cameras are useful aids but must not replace effective observations. Avoid becoming fixated on the screen.

Stage 12 – Prioritising Safety

If another vehicle approaches, pause the manoeuvre. Ensure you understand their intentions and that they have seen you before continuing.

